



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

ARE YOU PREPARED?

SANTA BARBARA, CA – November 7, 2011

On Saturday, November 6, 2011 Oklahoma had its largest recorded earthquake. It was a magnitude of 5.6; its epicenter was four miles east of Sparks in Lincoln County, according to the Oklahoma Geological Survey. The quake hit at 10:53 p.m., and it was reportedly felt as far away as Illinois, Kansas, Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas.

There were no injuries but there were plenty of non-structural damages. The City of Santa Barbara Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services wants to remind residents that it's not a matter of "if" but "when" a disaster strikes.

There may be simple actions you can do right now that will protect you if an earthquake happens tomorrow. **START NOW** by moving furniture such as bookcases away from beds, sofas, or other places where people sit or sleep. Move heavy objects to lower shelves. Then begin to look for other items in your home that may be hazardous in an earthquake.

In the kitchen:

- Latch cabinet doors. There are many types available, including child-proof latches.
- Gas appliances should have flexible connectors to reduce the risk of fire.
- Secure/strap refrigerators and other major appliances to walls.

Objects on open shelves and table tops:

- Use hooks or loop fasteners or non-damaging adhesives such as quake putty for your collectibles, pottery, lamps, etc. These can become deadly projectiles.

Hanging Objects:

- Mirrors, framed pictures and other objects should be hung from closed hooks so they can't bounce off the walls.

Electronics:

- Secure televisions, stereos, computers and microwaves and other electronics with flexible nylon straps and buckles.

Furniture:

- Secure the tops of all top heavy furniture, such as bookcases and file cabinets, to a wall.

Water heater:

- Your water heater should have two straps around it and screwed into the studs or masonry of the wall.

For more information, you can go to [Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country](#) and [Earthquake Hazards Mitigation for Nonstructural Elements](#) – FEMA 74-FM/Sept. 2005.

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